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21 Americans Released by Castro Arrive in U. S.

3 Others Go to Latin Lands and 3 Stay in Havana —Donovan Returns

By R. HART PHILLIPS
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MIAMI, April 22 — Twenty-one Americans who had been held prisoner by Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba for two to three and a half years were flown from Havana to the Homestead Air Forces Base this morning by a Pan American World Airways DC-6-D. The base is about 25 miles south of Miami.

The plane was returning from Havana, where it had delivered 15,400 pounds of food and medicine as part of the $62,000,000 ransom paid for the 1,113 Cuban invasion prisoners released last December.

James B. Donovan, the New York lawyer who negotiated the release of these prisoners, arrived on the same plane. He left immediately for New York.

One Is a Hospital Case

The Americans dressed in white or colored shirts and dark slacks walked off the plane with the exception of Richard Allen Pecoraro, 30 years old, of Staten Island, who was a hospital case. The clothes of the men were of the same type as those given by the Castro Government to the 1,113 Cuban prisoners who were flown into the Homestead base last December.

Mr. Donovan said that three other American prisoners who were released went to Latin America and that three or four Cuban-born Americans chose to stay in Havana with their families after release. He did not make public the names of these Americans. Whether or not any more Americans remain in the Castro prisons is not known at present.

Rafael del Pino, a naturalized American prisoner, did not arrive. His wife, who was at the base to greet him, became hysterical and was taken to a hospital. Mr. del Pino was formerly a friend of Fidel Castro and was with him in Mexico prior to the time. Dr. Castro landed with his expedition in Cuba on Dec. 2, 1956. At that time Mr. del Pino incurred the anger of Dr. Castro in Mexico.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Americans released by Cuba arriving yesterday at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla. Red Cross nurse greets them.

Mr. Donovan assured Mr. del Pino's wife that he was trying to get him released. He also said he had presented a petition to Dr. Castro in behalf of several hundred Cuban prisoners and remarked "It is hoped that as political conditions change in the island there will be amnesties granted to these prisoners."

He denied he was carrying on negotiations between the United States and Dr. Castro for recognition of the Castro regime. At one point Mr. Donovan said there were "80,000 prisoners in the island," which is the figure that Cuban exiles have long been declaring. At the same time Mr. Donovan said he had arranged for about 900 Cuban Americans to come to the United States by the next freighter carrying ransom goods to that island, possibly next Wednesday.

The former prisoners are Gilberto Rodriguez Fernandez, Miami; Hector E. Varona, Miami; Juan Pedro Koop, Miami; Guillermo Vidal Morales, Miami Beach; Eustace H. Danbrunts, Baltimore; Daniel L. Carswell, Eastchester, the Bronx, N.Y.; Richard Allen Pe-

coraro, Staten Island, N. Y.; Donald J. Greene, Gastonia, N. C.; Alford E. Gibson, Mount Gilliad, N.C.; Lamar E. DeZaldo, Miami; Leslie N. Bradley, Minneapolis; Joaquin Ossorio, Miami; Austin F. Young, Miami; Edmund K. Terransky, New York City; Leonard L. Schmidt, Chicago; Fernando G. Sanchez, Miami; John R. Gentile, Cleveland; Dario F. Prohias, Miami; Thomas L. Baker, Dothan, Ala.; James D. Beane, Franklinville, N. C.; and Geroge R. Beck, Norton, Mass.

The majority of these Americans had been tried and sentenced by military courts on charges of activities against the Castro regime. Their sentences ranged up to 30 years.

Few of the Americans would talk to newsmen. John R. Gentile of Cleveland, however, told of prison conditions in the Isle of Pines, where the Americans were held until just before they were released. He said prisoners were beaten, bayonetted and shot by guards on the slightest provocation. Many of the prisoners were injured and several killed, during his time in prison, he said.

Donovan Here 'Very Happy'

Appearing tired but describing himself as "very happy," Mr. Donovan arrived at Idlewild Airport yesterday afternoon from Miami aboard an Air Force jet.

He said: "I've only had four hours' sleep in three days. All I want to do is go home to my wife and four children and get back to my law practice."